

EXHIBIT C - CLEAN COPY OF THE CLAIMS PENDING
AS OF ENTRY OF AMENDMENT FILED AUGUST 13, 2002

1. (Amended) A bone fusion implant for repair or replacement of bone comprising a hollow body with a substantially enclosed hollow region formed between at least two bone fragments which are configured and dimensioned for mutual engagement and which are coupled together.

2. (Amended) The implant of claim 1, wherein the at least two bone fragments include a first bone fragment with a first coupling portion and a second bone fragment with a second coupling portion, and wherein the first and second bone fragments are joined together by interfitting together the first and second coupling portions.

3. The implant of claim 2, wherein the first coupling portion is a male coupling portion and the second coupling portion is a female coupling portion so that the bone fragments are mated in a male-female relationship.

4. The implant of claim 3, wherein the male coupling portion is a tenon and the female coupling portion is a mortise.

5. The implant of claim 3, wherein the male coupling portion is a tongue and the female coupling portion is a groove.

6. The implant of claim 1, wherein the fragments are configured and dimensioned to form a dovetail joint.

7. The implant of claim 1, wherein the at least two bone fragments are concentric hollow cylinders.

8. The implant of claim 1, further comprising a core formed of at least one of bone material and bone inducing substances, the core being disposed in the hollow body.

9. The implant of claim 8, wherein the core is formed of cancellous bone with a fluid concentrated therein.

10. The implant of claim 9, wherein the cancellous bone is subjected to mechanical pressure to concentrate the fluid.

11. The implant of claim 10, wherein the mechanical pressure is applied by aspiration.

12. The implant of claim 9, wherein the fluid is concentrated by soaking.

13. (Amended) The implant of claim 1, wherein the hollow body comprises bone tissue selected from the group consisting of autograft, allograft, xenograft bone tissue, and combinations thereof.

14. (Amended) The implant of claim 13, wherein the bone tissue of at least one of the bone fragments is partially demineralized or demineralized.

15. The implant of claim 1, wherein at least one of the bone fragments is at least partially dehydrated to mate against another bone fragment.

16. (Amended) A bone fusion implant for repair or replacement of bone comprising a hollow body formed from at least two bone fragments which are configured and dimensioned for mutual engagement and which are coupled together, wherein the hollow body further comprises a completely enclosed hollow region.

17. (New) The implant of claim 16, wherein the at least two bone fragments comprise a first bone fragment with a first coupling portion and a second bone fragment with a second coupling portion, and wherein the first and second bone fragments are joined together by interfitting the first and second coupling portions.

18. (New) The implant of claim 16, further comprising at least one of bone material and bone-growth inducing substance disposed in the hollow region.

19. (New) The implant of claim 16, further comprising cancellous bone with a fluid concentrated therein, wherein the cancellous bone is disposed in the hollow region.

20. (New) The implant of claim 16, wherein the bone tissue of at least one bone fragment is partially demineralized or demineralized.

21. (New) The implant of claim 16, wherein at least one of the bone fragments is at least partially dehydrated to mate with another bone fragment.

22. (New) The implant of claim 16, further comprising a region sized to receive a surgical instrument for facilitating implantation of the implant.

23. (New) The implant of claim 16, further comprising an outer surface with a contour conforming in shape with the end plates of vertebrae.

24. (New) The implant of claim 1, further comprising an outer surface with a contour conforming in shape with the end plates of vertebrae.

25. (New) The implant of claim 1, further comprising an outer surface with a wedge-shaped profile.

26. (New) The implant of claim 1, further comprising a region sized to receive a surgical instrument for facilitating implantation of the implant.

27. (New) A bone fusion implant for repair or replacement of bone comprising:

a substantially enclosed hollow interior space formed between at least two bone fragments which are configured and dimensioned for mutual engagement and which are coupled together; and

an outer surface conforming in shape with the end plates of vertebrae and having at least one migration resistant feature thereon.

28. (New) The implant of claim 27, wherein the at least one migration resistant feature comprises teeth.

29. (New) The implant of claim 27, wherein the at least two bone fragments comprise a first bone fragment with a first coupling portion and a second bone fragment with a second coupling portion, and wherein the first and second bone fragments are joined together by interfitting the first and second coupling portions.

30. (New) The implant of claim 27, further comprising at least one of bone material and bone-growth inducing substance disposed in the interior space.

31. (New) The implant of claim 27, further comprising cancellous bone with a fluid concentrated therein, wherein the cancellous bone is disposed in the interior space.

32. (New) The implant of claim 27, wherein the bone tissue of at least one of the bone fragments is partially demineralized or demineralized.

33. (New) The implant of claim 27, wherein at least one of the bone fragments is at least partially dehydrated to mate with another bone fragment.

34. (New) The implant of claim 27, further comprising a region sized to receive a surgical instrument for facilitating implantation of the implant.